

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method A~~ method for reducing [[the]] a content of contaminating metals in ionic form present in aqueous effluents, ~~characterised in that it comprises the steps of comprising:~~

a) providing an aqueous effluent comprising at least a metal M_i in ionic form;

~~[[a]] (b) placing the aqueous effluent, comprising at least a metal M_i in ionic form, in contact with at least a metal M_h completely or partially coated with hydrogen before and/or during the placing in contact with the metal ion(s) M_i ; and~~

~~[[b]] (c) recovering [[the]] an aqueous effluent from which the metal M_i has been eliminated or its content reduced.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the metal M_h comprises one or more metals selected from the group

consisting of elements of Groups Ib, IIb, IIIb, IVb, Vb,
VIb, VIIb and VIII of the Periodic Table of elements.

3. (Currently Amended) Method The method according
to claim 1—characterised in that wherein the metal M_h
comprises one or more metals selected from the group
consisting of elements of Groups Ib, VIIb and VIII of the
Periodic Table of elements.

4. (Currently Amended) Method The method according
to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the metal M_h
comprises one or more metals selected from the group
consisting of iron, ruthenium, osmium, cobalt, rhodium,
iridium, nickel, palladium and platinum.

5. (Currently Amended) Method The method according
to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the metal M_h
comprises one or more metals selected from the group
consisting of nickel, cobalt, palladium, iridium,
ruthenium, rhodium and platinum.

6. (Currently Amended) Method The method according
to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the metal M_h
comprises nickel.

7. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the metal M_h is completely or partially coated with hydrogen before being brought into contact with the metal ions M_i which are present in the aqueous effluent.

8. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the metal M_h is completely or partially coated with hydrogen during the placing in contact with the metal ions M_i which are present in the aqueous effluent.

9. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the metal ions M_i are the ionic forms of the elements or combinations of elements selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, actinium, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, manganese, technetium, rhenium, iron, ruthenium, osmium, cobalt, rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, platinum, copper, silver, gold, zinc, cadmium, mercury, aluminium aluminum, gallium, indium, thallium, silicon, germanium, tin, lead, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, selenium,

tellurium, le polonium, iodine, astatine, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium, thorium, protactinium, uranium, neptunium, plutonium, americium, curium, berkelium, californium, einsteinium, fermium, mendelevium, nobelium and lawrencium, alone or in admixture.

10. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the metal ions M_i are the ionic forms of the elements or combinations of elements selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, actinium, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, manganese, technetium, rhenium, iron, ruthenium, osmium, cobalt, rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, platinum, copper, silver, gold, zinc, cadmium, mercury, aluminium aluminum, gallium, indium, thallium, silicon, germanium, tin, lead, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, selenium, tellurium, polonium, iodine, astatine, cerium, europium, uranium, neptunium and plutonium, alone or in admixture.

11. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the metal ions M_i

are the ionic forms of the elements or combinations of elements selected from the group consisting of titanium, vanadium, chromium, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, platinum, copper, silver, gold, zinc, cadmium, mercury, aluminium alumirium, lead, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, selenium, polonium, cerium, uranium, neptunium and plutonium, alone or in admixture.

12. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the metal ions M_i are the ionic forms of the elements or combinations of elements selected from the group consisting of tin, chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, cadmium, mercury, lead, arsenic, antimony, selenium, polonium, uranium, neptunium and plutonium, alone or in admixture.

13. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the metal M_h is deposited on a support.

14. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, characterised in that it wherein the method is carried out at temperatures in the order of between

approximately 0°C and 200°C, more particularly between approximately 0°C and approximately 80°C.

15. (Currently Amended) Methed The method according to claim 1, characterised in that it wherein the method is carried out with aqueous effluents whose pH value is in the order of between approximately 1 and approximately 14.

16. (Currently Amended) Methed The method according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the aqueous effluent to be processed is water from groundwater tables, surface water, water distribution networks or industrial water, waster water, slurries [[and]] or industrial waste.

17. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) Decontamination A decontamination kit comprising at least a metal M_h, which is intended to be used utilized in the method according to claim 1.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is carried out at temperatures in the order of between approximately 0°C approximately 80°C.